

ROAD TO #300



# SPAWN



TODD  
MCFARLANE

JASON  
SHAWN  
ALEXANDER

HISTORY  
OF SPAWN  
PART I





TODD McFARLANE  
SCRIPT

JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER  
ART

TODD McFARLANE AND JON GOFF  
PLOT

TOM ORZECOWSKI  
LETTERING

FCO PLASCENCIA  
GREG MENZIE  
COLORS

FRANCESCO MATTINA  
COVER ARTIST (A/B)

TODD McFARLANE AND FRANCESCO MATTINA  
COVER ARTIST (C)

TODD McFARLANE  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

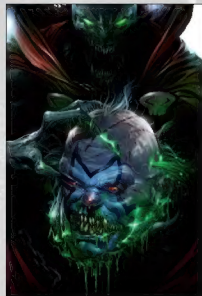
JON GOFF  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Publishing Coordinator  
SHANNON BAILEY

Production Artist  
JORDAN BUTLER

Publisher For Image Comics  
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY  
TODD McFARLANE



#### PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Spawn is nailed up on a cross in the hot desert sun while the Clown mocks him and leaves him to die. He shows Spawn what new mutation powers he has acquired, trying to scare Spawn, but it does no good. On the other side of the world, Marc who has been helping Al Simmons/Spawn with his master plan, is visited by Cog who hands him an envelope with the missing military files for Al Simmons. Back in the desert, the Clown thinks he's got the upper hand on Spawn, but in reality, Spawn uses his new resurrection powers to invoke The Freak, Cy-Gor and Overt-Kill to overpower the Clown. Once defeated, Spawn rips the Clown's head off and puts it on a stake for all to see.



YOU'VE  
SEEN WHAT  
HE CAN DO. WHAT  
HE'S BECOME.  
HOW DO YOU STOP  
SOMETHING LIKE  
THAT?

HEAVEN  
HAS DEALT WITH  
DOZENS OF SPAWNS  
LIKE HIM FOR CENTURIES.  
AND THOUGH THIS ONE  
APPEARS TO BE 'ALTERING'  
HIMSELF, HE ISN'T  
GOING TO SET THE  
RULES.

HE ISN'T  
"ALTERING HIMSELF?"  
THAT PROCESS IS FINISHED!  
YOU'RE ALONE ON THIS, BOYS.  
GOD *ISN'T HERE* TO SAVE YOU  
AND SPAWN'S GOING TO  
EXPLOIT THAT.



THE ONLY  
QUESTION IS WHERE ARE  
YOU GOING TO HIDE THAT  
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO  
FIND YOU?

WE'RE  
NOT PLANNING ON  
HIDING. WE LEAVE THAT  
TO YOU COWARDLY  
DEMONS. WE PLAN  
ON FIGHTING.

YOU  
DON'T EVEN  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE  
DEALING  
WITH!

YOU'RE  
WRONG.  
WE KNOW  
EXACTLY  
WHAT WE'RE  
DEALING  
WITH...





"HEAVEN HAS BEEN  
WATCHING AL SIMMONS  
FOR A **VERY LONG TIME**.  
YEARS BEFORE HELL CHOSE  
HIM AS THEIR NEW 'SPAWN'."

"GOD KNEW YOU WOULD  
COME FOR HIM."

"WHY?"

"BECAUSE SIMMONS  
WAS **PERFECT**."

"HE WAS LOYAL."

"DOGGEDLY-FOCUSED."

"SKILLED."

**BRAKA  
BRAKA  
BRAKA  
BRAKA  
BRAKA  
BRAKA**

"WITH THE HEART  
OF A COLD-BLOODED  
KILLER."

"AND ABOVE ALL, HE  
POSSESSED THE ONE  
QUALITY HELL HOLDS  
SO DEAR..."

"HE WASN'T A BELIEVER."

"NONE OF YOUR  
SPAWN WERE."

"BECAUSE NOT HAVING  
A GOD TO ANSWER TO,  
ALLOWS A MAN TO DO  
THE **CRUELEST THINGS**  
WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST  
HINT OF GUILT--"

"OR REMORSE."


"LIKE A  
SHARK,  
SIMMONS  
WAS THE  
PERFECT  
KILLING  
MACHINE."

"EVEN BETTER...  
HE WAS A  
**HERO**.  
SELF-RIGHTEOUS  
AND SELF-ASSURED."

"AND HIS COUNTRY NOTICED  
--AND TOOK ADVANTAGE.  
ESPECIALLY, AFTER HE TOOK A  
BULLET FOR HIS PRESIDENT."







"THAT'S WHEN JASON WYNN,  
ANOTHER CORRUPT SOUL--  
A MAN WITH *AMBITIONS* TO RIVAL  
EVEN THE MOST SINISTER DEMON  
OF THE PIT--TOOK SIMMONS UNDER  
HIS WING, *HONING* HIS NEW  
TOY SOLDIER'S ABILITIES WHILE  
BUILDING A *PERSONAL ARMY*  
OF *BASTARDS* AND *CUTTHROATS*  
COMPRISED OF NUMEROUS  
COVERT AGENCIES.

"WYNN FOUGHT *GHOST WARS*  
IN EVERY NATION AND MEN LIKE  
*LT. COL. AL SIMMONS* WERE  
HIS GREATEST, MOST BRUTAL  
WEAPONS.

"WYNN USED HIS LOYAL  
SOLDIERS--EACH BLINDED BY  
*BLOOD-LUST* AND *PATRIOTISM*  
TO FURTHER HIS MANY *SELF-*  
SERVING AGENDAS.

"UNTIL, OF COURSE,  
LIKE SIMMONS, EACH OF  
WYNN'S *PERSONAL ENFORCERS*  
BECAME *EXPENDABLE*--

"AS ALL SOLDIERS DO.

"AND SO, THE WARRIOR, THE HERO,  
THE MAN KNOWN AS  
ALBERT FRANCIS SIMMONS...

"FELL.



"WYNN USED HIS CONNECTIONS  
TO COVER UP THE 'FACTS'  
SURROUNDING SIMMONS' DEATH.

"AND ANOTHER 'HERO'S'  
CASKET WAS DRAPED IN  
A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM--

"--THEN  
LOWERED  
INTO  
THE DIRT.

"SIMMONS'  
MORTAL LIFE  
WAS OVER, BUT,  
AS WE ALL  
KNOW--

"HELL'S PLAN  
WAS ALREADY  
IN MOTION.

"OF COURSE,  
THAT PLAN  
WAS SLOPPY.

"I'VE ALWAYS SAID,  
'THE GREATEST TRICK THE  
DEVIL EVER PULLED WAS  
HAVING A GOOD P.R. FIRM'.  
BECAUSE FOR ALL ITS  
WICKED MACHINATIONS,  
HELL TENDS TO BE A BIT  
HEAVY-HANDED IN  
THEIR PURSUIT OF  
LOST SOULS.

"SO, WHEN  
TEMPTATION WAS  
SET AT THE FEET  
OF THE DEAD MAN'S  
WIDOW AND HIS  
BEST FRIEND,  
MONTHS BEFORE  
HIS DEATH...

"SIMMONS  
NEVER KNEW.  
HE WAS TOO  
DISTRACTED BY  
DUTY--BY HIS  
OWN, PERSONAL  
STRUGGLES.

"BUT **GOD**  
SURELY KNEW,  
HELL'S MANIPULATION  
IS NOTHING NEW TO  
**THE ALMIGHTY.**  
THE WHOLE OF THE  
HEAVENLY HOST IS  
WELL-VERSED IN  
YOU PARLOR  
GAMES.

"THAT THE  
BEST FRIEND WOULD  
GIVE THE WIDOW A  
CHILD--THE **ONE THING**  
SIMMONS' BARREN SEED  
COULD NEVER PROVIDE--  
WAS EITHER A STROKE  
OF **GENIUS**, OR LUCK,  
ON HELL'S PART.

"THE COMFORT  
THEY FOUND IN ONE  
ANOTHER LED TO  
MARRIAGE. THE CHILD  
GAVE THEM A FAMILY.  
THEIR **HAPPINESS** WAS  
ANOTHER CRACK MEANT  
TO FRACTURE SIMMONS'  
REALITY--SOW HIS  
DISCONTENT.

"ANOTHER  
BETRAYAL THAT  
WOULD PUSH  
THE **NEWBORN**  
**HELLSPAWN**  
TO REJECT  
EVERYONE AND  
EVERYTHING  
AROUND HIM.

"EXCEPT  
HIS WIFE--

"BY **HELLISH**  
DESIGN OR HUMAN  
FOLLY, SIMMONS'  
LOVE FOR THAT  
WOMAN NEVER  
FALTERED

"BUT THAT  
LOVE WAS THE  
**TRUEST HOOK--**  
THE PUREST  
BAIT.







"FROM A DISTANCE--

"HEAVEN MARVELED  
AT THE SADISTIC CHESS  
GAME HELL'S AGENTS HAD  
LAID OUT IN ADVANCE.

"EVERY PIECE  
UNDERSTOOD.

"EVERY MOVE  
CONSIDERED.

"EVERY  
COUNTER  
ANTICIPATED.

"AL SIMMONS' LIFE  
HAD AN END GAME  
HE *COULDN'T* SEE COMING.  
AND *SURELY*  
*COULDN'T* AVOID.

"THEN, WHEN THE TIME WAS  
RIGHT TO PUT A BULLET  
THROUGH HIS BRAIN,  
YOUR SIDE KNEW--  
WITHOUT A DOUBT--

"AT THE INSTANT OF DEATH,  
HIS FIRST--AND ONLY--  
THOUGHT WOULD BE  
FOR HIS WIFE.

"MEANWHILE, SIMMONS  
--TO THIS DAY--  
CONTINUES TO BELIEVE  
HIS PRIMAL SCREAM FOR  
HIS WIFE IS WHAT FOREVER  
CURSED HIM TO *DAMNATION*  
AS HELL'S LATEST


**'SPAWN'.**

"IN TRUTH, HE WAS  
*PREORDAINED!*  
CURSED BY  
SKILLFUL, *DEMONIC*  
INTERVENTION.

"WHEN THE DAY COMES  
THAT SIMMONS *FULLY*  
*REALIZES* THE EXTENT OF  
HELL'S MANIPULATION...

"I *MAY,*  
ACTUALLY,  
*PITY* THE  
DEMONS OF  
THE PIT.






"UNTIL THEN,  
THE SITUATION  
WE ALL FIND  
OURSELVES IN  
IS A BYPRODUCT  
OF HELL'S DOING.

"WHEN  
**MALEBOLGIA,**  
HATED LORD OF HELL'S  
EIGHT CIRCLE,  
THE SAME DEVIL WHO  
MADE YOU, ALL THOSE  
CENTURIES AGO,  
SET HIS CRUEL EYES  
ON SIMMONS, WE  
SHOULD'VE KNOWN...

"OUR FATES  
WERE SEALED,  
AND THE ONLY  
THING THAT COULD  
HAVE AVERTED THE  
ENDLESS WAR THAT  
FOLLOWED IS IF  
SIMMONS HAD  
DIED A SPLIT SECOND  
SOONER, OR A SPLIT  
SECOND LATER.

"BECAUSE  
HIS SOUL WOULD  
HAVE BELONGED,  
TO **HEAVEN**,  
NOT **HELL**.

"IMAGINE  
HOW DIFFERENT  
ALL THIS PLAYS OUT  
IF **SPAWN** WAS OUR  
WARRIOR, NOT YOURS.  
IT **STAGGERS**  
THE IMAGINATION.



"INSTEAD,  
THE PLAN TO FIND  
AND CREATE YOUR  
NEWEST HELLSPAWN  
CAME DOWN TO THE  
WAILING OF A SINGLE  
WORD. A NAME--

**"WANDA."**





"THAT WORD  
--'WANDA'--  
IS NOW  
FORBIDDEN  
IN HEAVEN.

"IT IS A BLASPHEME--  
AN AFFRONT AGAINST  
ALL THAT IS HOLY.

"BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS  
THE BIRTH OF A CREATURE  
SO POWERFUL, SO DARK--  
EVEN YOUR SIDE DIDN'T KNOW  
WHAT IT HAD UNLEASHED.

"MALEBOLGIA AND HIS MINION  
SO DESPERATELY WANTED TO BUILD  
THEIR ARMY--CREATE THEIR NEW WARRIORS.  
THEY NEVER GAVE PAUSE--NEVER CONSIDERED--  
THAT THIS SPAWN COULD BE DIFFERENT  
FROM ALL THE HELLSPAWN BEFORE HIM.

"YOU KNOW WHAT I'M  
SAYING IS TRUE, BECAUSE  
WHILE HEAVEN OR GOD--  
MY GOD OR ANY OTHER--  
WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO  
CONTROL YOUR SPAWN...

"HELL CAN'T  
CONTROL  
HIM EITHER.

"SIMMONS IS HIS OWN,  
UNIQUE BEAST AND HELL  
HAS CURSED US ALL WITH  
HIS WRATH.

"YOU'VE CURSED US ALL--  
EVERY ANGEL, EVERY DEMON,  
EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD--  
WITH THIS SPAWN.

"AND THE  
CONSEQUENCES  
OF HIS ACTIONS.

"SO, GO ASK  
YOUR LORDS...  
ASK THEM--IF THEY  
COULD DO IT  
OVER AGAIN,  
WOULD THEY?!

"KNOWING ALL WE  
KNOW, WOULD THEY  
STILL CHOOSE AL SIMMONS  
TO WEAR THE BURDEN  
OF LEADING HELL'S ARMIES  
AS THEIR NEWEST  
HELLSPAWN?

OR WOULD  
THEY THINK  
TWICE?

"AND, IF YOU WANT  
TO TALK TO ME ABOUT  
CULPABILITY--ABOUT WHAT  
ME AND MY SIDE KNOW ABOUT  
THIS SPAWN'S INTENTIONS?  
I WOULD ASK YOU THE  
VERY SAME QUESTION!

"INSTEAD, WE BOTH STAND HERE,  
POINTING FINGERS, UNABLE TO EXPLAIN  
HOW THIS MAN--HOW AL SIMMONS--  
HID HIS TRUE NATURE FROM US.

"HOW IS THAT  
POSSIBLE?  
HOW COULD HELL  
HAVE BEEN SO CARELESS  
AS TO SELECT THE ONE  
HUMAN CAPABLE OF  
DEFYING BOTH  
SALVATION AND  
DAMNATION?

"HOW?!





"AND TO THINK,  
IT ALL STARTED  
OUT SO RIGHT..."

"SIMMONS' PERSONALITY  
FIT MALEBOLGIA'S  
BLUEPRINT PERFECTLY."

"AND IN A FAILED ATTEMPT  
TO ENSURE OBEDIENCE, THEY STOLE  
SIMMONS' IDENTITY--SCARRING HIM  
BEYOND RECOGNITION, DECAYING HIS  
FLESH--SO HE'D NEVER AGAIN LOOK  
LIKE THE MAN HE ONCE WAS."

"THOUGH SIMMONS  
HAS RECENTLY GIVEN  
HIMSELF A MAKEOVER--  
HIS IDENTITY NO LONGER  
A SECRET TO THE  
WORLD AT LARGE."

"THEN, OF COURSE,  
THERE'S THE CROWN  
JEWEL OF YOUR  
MANIPULATION--  
RETURNING THE DEAD  
HERO TO THE MORTAL  
PLANE FIVE YEARS  
AFTER HIS DEATH."


"FIVE YEARS FOR  
THE WORLD TO MOVE  
ON. FIVE YEARS FOR  
HELL TO PLAN THEIR  
NEW SPAWN'S DESTINY.  
FIVE YEARS TO MAKE  
IT ALL WORK."

"BUT HELL MISSED  
SOMETHING. SOMETHING SO  
CRITICAL IT'S FORCED BOTH OUR  
SIDES TO SPEND FAR MORE  
TIME AND EFFORT THAN ANY  
OF US COULD HAVE  
EVER IMAGINED."

"AND NOW, WE  
ALL KNOW WHAT  
THAT MISTAKE WAS..."

"SIMMONS HID A  
PIECE OF HIS HUMANITY  
FROM YOU WHILE YOU WERE  
BUSY STRIPPING HIM TO  
HIS CORE, TRANSFORMING  
HIM INTO YOUR  
GHOULISH  
SOLDIER."





"THAT SMALL CONNECTION WITH HIS FELLOW MAN GAVE SIMMONS AN EDGE. INSTEAD OF FALLING LOCK-STEP INTO HELL'S WAR LIKE A GOOD LITTLE SOLDIER, SIMMONS WAS ABLE TO 'STAY AFLOAT,' MENTALLY.

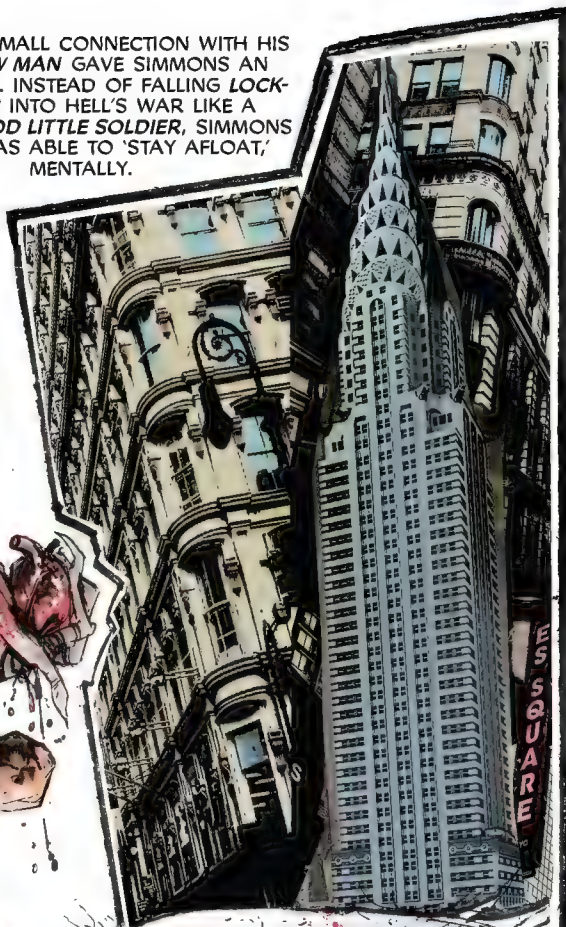
A large, dark, scaly monster with a long, segmented tail and a red, glowing eye is shown in a dynamic pose, reaching out with its long, clawed fingers. The monster's body is covered in intricate scales and patterns.

"NOW, HE FEELS THE NEED TO BECOME HUMANITY'S 'SAVIOR'--EITHER OUT OF SOME INSTINCTUAL NEED TO PLAY THE HERO, OR SIMPLY TO SPITE US ALL.


The monster's long, segmented tail is shown in a dynamic pose, reaching out with its long, clawed fingers. The tail is covered in intricate scales and patterns.

"AND THE VIOLATOR--WHAT A CLOWN! HE FAILED US ALL! IT WAS HIS CHARGE TO SOUND THE ALARM ALONG THE WAY IF SPAWN BEGAN TO DEVIATE. WHERE WAS HE AND HIS VAUNTED 'EXPERTISE' ON HELLSPAWN AND THEIR SYMBIOTES?"

A large, blue, demonic face with red eyes and a wide, toothy grin is shown in a dynamic pose, reaching out with its long, clawed fingers. The face is covered in intricate scales and patterns.







"LET'S BE CLEAR,  
WHEN ANY OF US  
SPEAK OF 'SPAWN',  
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT  
THE SYMBIOTE. THAT'S  
WHERE THE TRUE POWER  
HIDES. THAT'S WHAT  
WE ALL COVET--  
**NOT SIMMONS!**

"IT'S THE  
COSTUME'S DNA  
THAT IS DRIVING  
ALL THIS.

"SIMMONS WAS  
ONLY EVER MEANT  
TO BE A MEANS  
TO AN END.

"BUT SIMMONS--  
HIS SOUL, HIS DNA--  
MUST HAVE AN  
'X-FACTOR' THAT  
WHEN JOINED WITH THE  
SYMBIOTE CORRUPTED  
THE NATURAL ORDER--  
ALTERED HOW THE  
COSTUME MERGES WITH  
ITS HOST. SINCE YOUR  
SYMBIOTE WAS STILL IN  
ITS 'LARVAL STATE' WHEN  
IT BONDED WITH SIMMONS,  
NOBODY--DEMON OR  
ANGEL--

"--NOTICED  
THE DANGER  
LOCKED WITHIN  
AL SIMMONS'  
HUMANITY.



"LUCKY FOR US, SPAWN'S EVOLUTION IS CHANGING THE MAN AND THE COSTUME AT A SLOW PACE. THAT'S ALSO WHY WE DIDN'T NOTICE THE *FULL SCALE* OF THE THREAT SOONER. BECAUSE IT WAS MIERED BENEATH THE TYPICAL TRAINING REGIMEN FOR HELL'S NEW RECRUITS.

"VIOLATOR PUSHED HIM AT FIRST, THEN *OTHERS* JOINED THE FRAY.

"SOON SPAWN REVERTED TO HIS BASE INSTINCTS, CALLING ON HIS MILITARY TRAINING.

"OBVIOUSLY, SIMMONS DIDN'T FULLY APPRECIATE THE FACT HE WAS WEARING A *WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION* EVERY TIME HE ALLOWED HIS COSTUME TO POUR OVER HIS BODY.

"BUT THIS IS WHEN HEAVEN *FIRST* TOOK NOTICE. THIS IS WHEN GOD UNDERSTOOD A HELLSPAWN'S *FULL* POTENTIAL.

"AS SIMMONS APPLIED HIS POWERS LIKE A MODERN *SUPERHERO*, GOD SAW THE REAL THREAT...

"WITH EVERY BATTLE FOUGHT, SIMMONS WAS BECOMING MORE AND MORE *COMFORTABLE* IN HIS NEW 'SKIN'-- AND THE COSTUME WAS LEARNING *ALL-NEW* LESSONS IN WAR. LESSONS FUELED NOT BY RAGE OR HATRED, BUT BY AL'S SLIVER OF HUMANITY.

"AND, LIKE FOOLS... WE PLAYED *RIGHT* INTO SPAWN'S HAND.





"INSTEAD OF BACKING  
OFF--LETTING SPAWN  
FIGHT A CADRE OF  
LOSERS, HEAVEN AND  
HELL PANICKED.

**ESPECIALLY HELL!**

MALEBOLGIA SENDING  
DEMON-AFTER-DEMON  
TO KILL SPAWN WAS  
CHILDISH. DIDN'T HE  
REALIZE HE WAS  
DOING THE SYMBIOTE  
A FAVOR! EVERY TIME  
HE SENT OUT BIGGER,  
'BADDER', MORE  
POWERFUL  
COMPETITION HE  
FORCED SIMMONS--  
HE FORCED THE  
COSTUME TO GET  
**BETTER!**


"URIZEN, MAMMON AND HIS  
LACKIES. THEY WEREN'T REAL THREATS.  
THEY JUST FORCED SIMMONS AND HIS  
COSTUME TO GROW, TO MORPH--  
AN EVER-EVOLVING, LIVING WEAPON.  
UNTIL, HERE WE ARE... INSTEAD OF  
HAVING A SOLDIER YOU COULD  
CONTROL--OR A GENERAL TO LEAD  
YOUR ARMIES--YOU'VE BUILT  
YOURSELVES AN ENEMY WHO  
CRAVES ONE THING ABOVE  
ALL OTHERS...

"SPAWN WANTS--NEEDS--  
TO BE THE 'MASTER OF HIS  
OWN FATE'. THE QUESTION IS...  
WHEN I SAY 'SPAWN', DO I  
MEAN THE MAN OR THE SUIT?  
OR BOTH? WHAT SCARES ME--  
AND SHOULD SCARE YOU--IS  
THAT I DO NOT HAVE THE  
ANSWER. BUT WHEN HE  
TAPPED INTO HIS CRAVING  
FOR FREE WILL, THAT'S WHEN  
THE REAL ALARMS SHOULD  
HAVE GONE OFF."

"BUT MALEBOLGIA'S EGO  
COULDN'T STAND DEFIANCE--  
NOT FROM ONE OF HIS  
'SUBJECTS'. THAT'S WHY HELL  
WILL NEVER WIN THE  
**GREAT BATTLE.**  
BECAUSE, LIKE HUMANS,  
YOUR LEADERS ARE DRIVEN  
BY--HINDERED BY--  
EMOTION.







"GOD LAUGHED WHEN SHE HEARD MALEBOLGIA, AFTER FAILING TO REIGN IN HIS CREATION, THOUGHT HE COULD GOAD SPAWN INTO A BATTLE, HOPING TO DESTROY HIS PRODIGAL SON.

"WE ALL KNOW HOW THAT ENDED.

"MALEBOLGIA'S DECAPITATED SKULL STILL RESTS ATOP THE HELLISH PEAK WHERE HE FELL, OR SO I'VE BEEN TOLD.

"WHAT FOLLOWED WAS CHAOS IN HELL AS COUNTLESS LEGIONS FOUGHT FOR THAT NOW VACANT THRONE. YOU EVEN ATTEMPTED TO STEAL THAT VILE THRONE FOR YOURSELF.

"SUCH AMBITIONS MUST HAVE PUT A STRAIN ON YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SIMMONS. AFTER ALL, YOU WERE A MENTOR TO HIM--EVEN A FRIEND.

"HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE MUCH PATIENCE FOR ANY OF US ANYMORE.

"FRIEND OR FOE.

"WE'RE ALL THE SAME. HEAVEN, HELL, MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. HE WANTS US ALL GONE.

"BUT NOT BEFORE HE FINDS OUT WHO KILLED HIS WIFE. THAT'S THE ONE PIECE I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY WOULD HELL DO SOMETHING THEY KNEW WOULD ENRAGE THIS SLEEPING GIANT? WANDA WAS HIS WEAKNESS--THE ONE THING YOU COULD EXPLOIT, AND SOMEONE ON YOUR END KILLED HER.

"THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ANY OF US TO HOLD OVER SIMMONS' NOW...

INSTEAD, HE'S FOCUSED ON MAKING SURE NONE OF US GET OUT OF HIS PERSONAL WAR ALIVE."



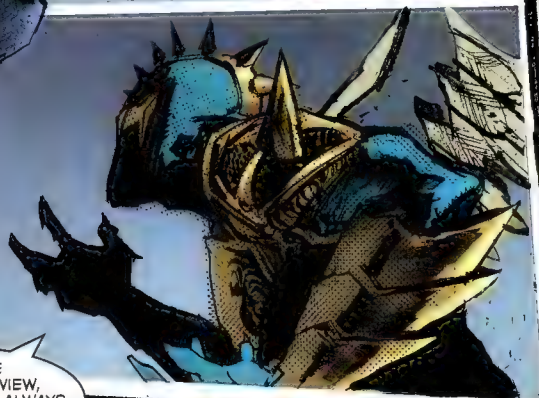


SO, BEFORE YOU QUESTION OUR ABILITIES, WHY DON'T WE ALL CHECK OUR EGOS AND FOCUS ON COMBINING WHAT *ANY OF US* KNOWS SO WE CAN HAVE AS MUCH INTEL AS POSSIBLE.

THAT, AT LEAST, GIVES US A PATH FORWARD.



I AGREE. SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE IS OUR ONLY CHANCE.



I APPRECIATE YOUR PRAGMATIC VIEW, COGLIOSTRO. YOU'VE ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE MORE HEAVEN THAN HELL TO ME.

DON'T DELUDE YOURSELF, REDEEMER. I'M NOT HERE TO HELP YOU OR ANYONE ELSE. ALL OF US ARE CULPABLE FOR THIS CURRENT SITUATION, BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, I'M CONCERNED ABOUT MY SURVIVAL. THAT'S IT.

IF THAT DOESN'T OFFEND YOU, WELL, THEN WE HAVE LOTS TO TALK ABOUT. OTHERWISE THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER.

WE ALL WANT TO SURVIVE. THAT MAKES OUR GOALS THE SAME.



GOOD. THEN LET'S PICK OUR BATTLE PLANS.

**Next: Part 2**



# SPAWNING GROUND

P.O. Box 12230  
Tempe, AZ 85284-0038

[twitter.com/Todd\\_McFarlane](https://twitter.com/Todd_McFarlane)  
[facebook.com/liketoddmcFarlane](https://facebook.com/liketoddmcFarlane)

## THE HISTORY OF AL SIMMONS – PART 1

The “History of Spawn” is really a history of Al Simmons. More specifically, a history of Al’s life just prior to his mysterious death and subsequent “deal with the devil” through his resurrection as a Hellspawn and the many trials and tribulations that have plagued his existence in the 295 issues from Spawn #1 to now.

This issue—Part 1—focuses on the first 100 issues of Spawn and the list below is a “field guide” to this issue’s many characters and their first appearances.

THE ROAD TO #300 HAS BEGUN!!!

### PAGE 1

- Redeemer: 1st appearance (as Anti-Spawn) Spawn #16.
- The Rapture: The first member of the Rapture was introduced in Spawn #293.

### PAGES 2 and 3

- Al Simmons: The hero of our story, 1st appearance, Spawn #1.
- Al’s black ops hit squad: Various members of Al’s military units have appeared in numerous issues of Spawn and other titles. This particular team is currently **[REDACTED]**.
- President Mitchell: Saved from an assassin’s bullet by Al Simmons, Mitchell was first mentioned in Spawn #1, was named in Spawn #29? and make his first on-page appearance in THIS ISSUE!

### PAGE 4

- Jason Wynn: 1st appearance, Spawn #1.

### PAGE 5

- Wanda Blake: The love of Al’s life and his widow. 1st appearance, Spawn #1.
- Terry Fitzgerald: Al Simmons’ best friend in life and Wanda’s current husband. 1st appearance, Spawn #3.
- Jason Wynn and President Mitchell are both seen here mourning Al’s death.

### PAGE 6

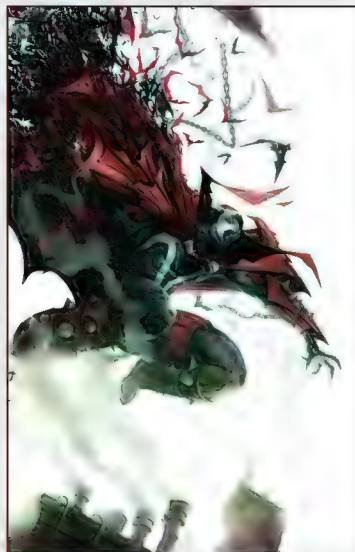
- Al Simmons: Our hero. Falling. Next stop: Hell.

### PAGE 7

- Malebolgia: The Dark Lord of the 8th Plane of Hell. 1st appearance, Spawn #1

### PAGE 8 and 9

- SPAWN: Yeah, that’s Al. You know it and I know it, but just to be safe... Al Simmons first appeared in Spawn #1, published in 1992 by Todd McFarlane Productions and Image Comics.



NEXT ISSUE

The history of Spawn continues on the road to 300!



## **PAGES 10 and 11**

- Detective Sam Burke: 1st appearance, Spawn #1
- Detective Twitch Williams: 1st appearance, Spawn #1

## **PAGE 12**

- Clown: 1st appearance Spawn #2. Clown is Spawn chief arch rival.
- Violator: 1st appearance Spawn #2. The Violator is Clown's true, demonic form.

## **PAGE 13**

- The K7-Leetha: Al's sentient, symbiotic, hell-born costume. 1st appearance, Spawn #1. Named, Spawn: Blood Feud #1.

## **PAGES 14 and 15**

- Commando Spawn: First time Al dipped into his military arsenal, Spawn #6.
- Billy Kincaid: Child killer, psychopath. 1st appearance, Spawn #5.
- The Phlebiac Brothers: The Violator's demonic kin. 1st appeared in Spawn #8 and the Violator mini-series.
- Major Vale: 1st appearance, Spawn #16.
- Mother Mary: 1st appearance, RIGHT HERE! Who is she? You'll find out.
- Cy-Gor: 1st appearance, Spawn #38 (see Spawn #295 for current status).
- Overtkill: 1st appearance, Spawn #6 (see Spawn #295 for current status).
- Ab and Zab: 1st appearance, Spawn #95.
- Anti-Spawn: 1st appearance, Spawn #16.
- The Curse: 1st appearance, Spawn #27 (see Spawn #295 for current status).
- God: 1st appearance, Spawn #32

## **PAGE 16 and 17**

- Urizen: A colossal demon older than time. 1st appearance, Spawn #93.
- Mammon: A powerful deity and a long-time threat to Al and all he holds dear. 1st appearance, Spawn #87.

## **PAGES 18/19**

- VICTORY: In Spawn #100, Al defeated Malebolgia, was granted the crown of the 8th Plane of Hell, thought he'd won his freedom and a chance at happiness, but his war had just begun.

## **PAGE 20**

- Cogliostro. 1st appearance, Spawn #9, "Cog" has been Al's mentor in the after-life, as well as his friend and rival. His current motivations are unknown.

NEXT ISSUE: The History of Spawn – Part 2

**ONLY THREE MORE ISSUES TO SPAWN #300!** And we're just getting started!

'Til next month. Give 'em Hell!

-Jon





**IN STORES  
MAY 15, 2019**

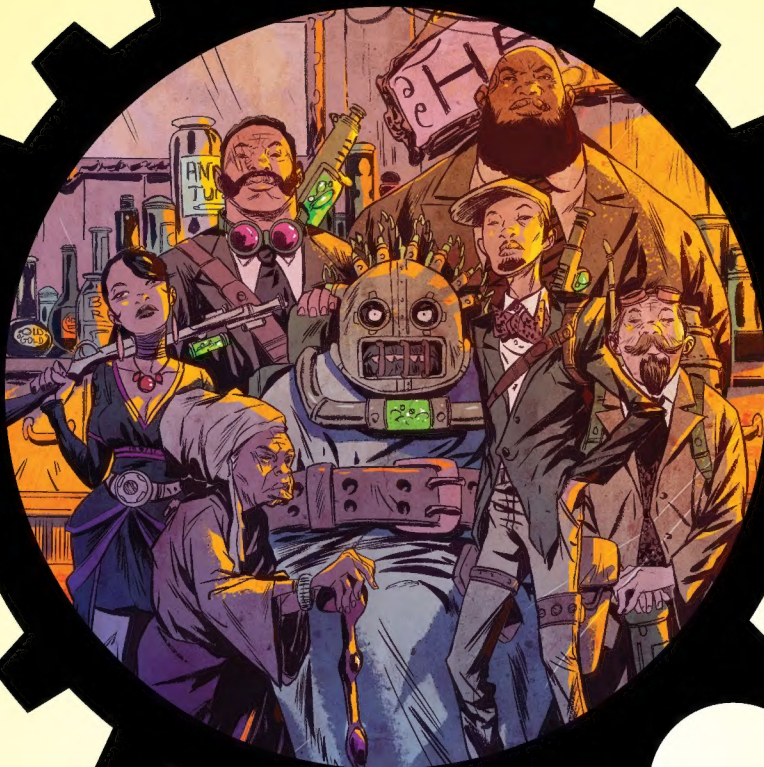


# THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

**INCLUDES... 'SOLD OUT' SKE ONE-SHOT - 4-ISSUE SKE #2 MINI-SERIES**

COVER GALLERY • 'MAKING OF' • MORE!!!





DAVID F. WALKER

CHUCK BROWN

SANFORD GREENE

"An action-packed burst of energy that never loses sight of the heavy themes at the center of the series."

—ComicBook.com

"BITTER ROOT brings something new to the idea of a monster hunter. While we've seen things like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Supernatural*, this is an entirely unique spin. It's filled with fleshed-out characters, gorgeous artwork, and an incredible mythos."

—HorrorTalk

"A lively, beautiful comic about killing monsters."

—AV Club

"Anything but traditional."

—The Hollywood Reporter

"The art is striking. And most importantly, the renaissance feels authentic."

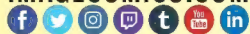
—Black Nerd Problems

"Action packed, epic, smart, funny and challenges just about every supernatural trope."

—Graphic Policy



IMAGECOMICS.COM



FOLLOW #IMAGECOMICS

BITTER ROOT is TM & © 2019 David Walker, Sanford Greene & Chuck Brown. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

# BITTER ROOT™

VOLUME ONE AVAILABLE MAY 2019



# SPAWN®

**TODD MCFARLANE •**

**JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER**

## ***DARK HORROR***

**COLLECTING THE SOLD OUT SPAWN 276-283**

***APRIL 2019***

IMAGECOMICS.COM

Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2019 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. Image Comics® and its logo are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

